The Minister of Human Resource Development held consultations with Chairman, UGC and Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities to consider measures to mitigate the financial difficulties being faced by them. On the basis of these consultations, the UGC have withdrawn the Commission's earlier orders of freezing the maintenance grants.

National Action Plan for Children

*248. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Action Plan for Children is under Government's consideration as part of its commitment to the United Naitons World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children (September 1990);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for its implementation including the finances required therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) A National Plan of Action for Children has been approved by the Government for implementation upto 2000 A.D. as part of its commitment to the United Nations World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. The Government has also been committed to the cause of children and provisions for child development have been made under the various Five Year Plans.

(b) The Plan of Action would cover Child Care and Development in the fields of health, nutrition, education, water supply, sanitaion, welfare, environment and disadvantaged children including girls among other groups.

(c) The National Plan of Action would be implemented by concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India from their Plan funds.

Workshop on the problem of neglected children

*249. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a two-day national workshop on the problem of neglected children was held on June 19-20, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the main observations and suggestions made at the workshop; and

(c) what is the number of neglected children in India, indicating the State-wise and Union Territory-wise break-up thereof and what are the broad features of the programme, if any, contemplated under the Eighth Five Year Plan for rehabilitation of these neglected children?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The observations and suggestions made at the workshop include (a) priortisation of categories amongst neglected children and formulation of different strategies, policies and programmes for different target groups; (b) amending certain provision of JJ Act, 1986 so as to strengthen provisions relating to child abuse and neglect; (c) effective enforcement of the Orphanages and other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Act, 1960; (d) eliciting active cooperation of voluntary organisations in schemes for street children & (e) to devise ways and means for mobilising community resources for the welfare of neglected children.

As no statistical survey has taken so far, the number of neglected children in the country is not available.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan the Government propose to start two new central schemes for the welfare of Neglected Children.